

**Serial No. to be determined
Amdt. dated January 2, 2004
Preliminary Amendment**

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the same or similar claims in a subsequently filed continuation or divisional application.

Applicants note that claims 18 through 34 correspond to Group II as it was defined in an Office Action issued in the parent case.

CONCLUSION

If questions should remain after entry of the amendments and consideration of the remarks contained herein, the Office is kindly invited to contact the applicant's representative at the number provided herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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GSD/gsd